

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, ELAB, SHUM, PE
SUBJECT: GOP ARRESTS LABOR LAWYERS AND COMMUNIST PARTY
LABOR CHIEF

REF: A) LIMA 1716 B) LIMA 1446

SUMMARY: ACCORDING TO TRADE UNION AND FAMILY PROTESTS
THE GOP HAS ARRESTED TWO LABOR LAWYERS (ONE FOR THE
THIRD TIME) AS WELL AS THE COMMUNIST PARTY LABOR AFFAIRS CHIEF.
IF THE GOP CONTINUES TO DETAIN THESE PERSONS IT WILL PROBABLY
COME UNDER INTERNATIONAL FIRE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS.
END SUMMARY.

1. THE COMMUNIST PARTY (PCP) AND THE NATIONAL FEDERATION OF
EDUCATION WORKERS (FENTEP), A CGTP (MOSCOW-LINE TRADE UNION CON-
FEDERATION) AFFILIATE, ISSUED COMMUNIQUE MARCH 3 PROTESTING
THE MARCH 3 ARREST OF GUSTAVO ESPINOSA MONTESINOS, FORMER
CGTP SEC GEN AND CURRENTLY PCP POLITBURO OFFICIAL RESPONSIBLE
FOR LABOR AFFAIRS. THE GOP HAS NOT YET OFFICIALLY ACKNOWLEDGED
THE ARREST OF ESPINOSA.

2. MARCH 4 LIMA PRESS REPORTED THE MARCH 3 ARREST OF
ALFONSO BARRANTES LINGAN. LA PRESSA DESCRIBES BARRANTES AS
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"LEFTIST LAWYER CHARACTERIZED BY HIS DEFENSE OF POLITICAL
PRISONERS, UNION LEADERS, STUDENTS AND PEASANTS". A GROUP
OF LAWYERS HAS CALLED FOR THE LIMA LAWYERS ASSOCIATION TO TAKE
IMMEDIATE ACTION TOWARD SECURING THE RELEASE OF BARRANTES.
LA PRENSA NOTES THAT DR. BARRANTES WAS DEFENDING STUDENTS
DETAINED IN THE FEBRUARY 20 POLICE RAID ON THE NATIONAL EDUCATION
UNIVERSITY (REF B). THE ESPINOSA ARREST COULD ALSO BE LINKED

TO THAT RAID. THE EMBASSY RECALLS THAT ESPINOSA WAS THE LEADING STUDENT FIGURE AT THE EDUCATION UNIVERSITY AND HAS CONTINUED TO BE INVOLVED THERE. ONE OF HIS FORMAL POSITIONS IS EDUCATION WORKERS REPRESENTATIVE TO THE CGTP.

3. THE WIFE OF LABOR LAWYER GENARO LEDESMA IZQUITA, WHOSE CASE AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL CHAMPIONED IN EARLY 1976 DURING HIS SEVERAL MONTHS DETENTION IN THE JUNGLE PRISON SEPA, HAS DENOUNCED GOP FOR THE FEBRUARY 10 ARREST OF HER HUSBAND. HIS WHEREABOUTS ARE UNKNOWN, STATES MRS. LEDESMA. SHE HAS WRITTEN TO NOTED PERUVIAN AUTHOR AND POTENTIAL CENTER/LEFT POLITICAL FIGURE MARIO VARGAS LLOSA TO SEEK HIS SUPPORT IN LOCATING HER HUSBAND. VARGAS LLOSA IN TURN INFORMED THE INTERNATIONAL PEN CLUB OF WHICH HE IS PRESIDENT OF THE INCIDENT AND IN REPLY TO MRS. LEDESMA OFFERED HIS "SYMPATHY IN AND SOLIDARITY WITH YOUR PROTEST (OF AN ACT) WHICH FROM ANY POINT OF VIEW CONSTATUTES AN ABUSE WITHOUT EXTENUATING CIRCUMSTANCES".

4. COMMENT: ARREST OF ABOVEMENTIONED PERSONS APPEARS TO UNDERLINE GOP COMMITMENT TO USE TOUGH SECURITY MEASURES AS A MEANS TO AVERT LABOR AND STUDENT UNREST (REF A). STUDENT GROUPS HAVE BEEN INVOLVED IN THE MOST VIOLENT LABOR STRIKES DURING THE PAST YEAR. GOP MOVES AGAINST THE EDUCATION UNIVERSITY AND RECENT EFFORTS TO UNDERMINE THE FAR-LEFT TEACHERS UNION (ARREST OF LEADERSHIP AND LIQUIDATION OF UNION-CONTROLLED TEACHER COOPERATIVES WHICH WERE A SOURCE OF UNION FUNDS) APPEAR TO BE AN EFFORT TO PREVENT THE FORMATION OF A RADICAL WORKER/STUDENT COALITION.

5. AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL AND OTHER HUMAN RIGHTS ORGANIZATIONS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ARE LIKELY TO FOCUS ON THE DETENTION OF THE LAWYERS AND GUSTAVO ESPINOSA (IF PROLONGED), ESPECIALLY BECAUSE AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL CORRESPONDENT IN LIMA LAURA CALLER, IS A LAWYER CLOSELY ASSOCIATED WITH THE CGTP AND MARXIST TRADE UNIONS. ALSO ESPINOSA IS WELL-KNOWN IN ILO AND INTERNATIONAL LABOR CIRCLES AND LEDESMA IS SAID TO HAVE JUST RETURNED FROM GENEVA WHERE HE ALLEGEDLY WORKED WITH THE U.N. HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION.
DEAN

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